Today is a very special day for many reasons. First and foremost, today is a special day because it is Sunday – the Lord’s Day – the day when we gather as a family to worship, praise and thank God for His many blessings and gifts and to remember His triumph over sin and death by His own Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter and traditionally, this Sunday is called Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the day that, throughout the universal Church, we pray for those who have answered God’s call to shepherd His people as priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. We also pray, I dare say beg, the Lord this day to touch the hearts of young people to explore if God is calling them to His service, to shepherd His people as priests, deacons or in consecrated life. Who knows, my young brothers? Maybe one of you is being called to this service of shepherding God’s people. Be open to the Lord’s voice and listen!

Today, for the Class of 2017, it is your Graduation Day – a day to celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings that He has bestowed on each of you in your time as students at St. Mary’s Preparatory. But this, my young brothers, is not the end but just the beginning.

In our First Reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke recalls the words spoken by St. Peter who was accompanied by the Eleven other Apostles and said: “Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified.” St. Peter was addressing these words to the Jews who were at least complacent in the face of Jesus’ unjust arrest, condemnation, torture and crucifixion. They failed to acknowledge Him as both Lord and Christ. As you leave these hallowed halls today, I implore you do not betray Christ! Make Him the center of your lives! Live your lives in such a way that what you say and what you do reflect your faith and trust in Him. Remember, it is easy to say you are a follower of Christ but so much more difficult to be a follower of Christ. As we sung in the Responsorial Psalm today: “The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.” Let this be your mantra throughout your life! My young brothers, if you do not have the Lord you have nothing! I REPEAT – If you do not have the Lord in your life, you have nothing! Remember, we have been saved by his sacrifice on the cross and as St. Peter reminds us in the Second Reading from his letter this morning, “By His wounds [we] have been healed.”

You, my brothers, must be on guard because, unfortunately, the world does not hold as sacred and dear many of the values that we who are believers hold as sacred and dear. You will no longer be part of an institution that protects you if you will. Your values, morals, ethics, your faith will be challenged and put to the test. In the Gospel passage from St. John that was proclaimed to us a few minutes ago, Jesus uses the parable of the shepherd and the sheep to warn his listeners that they need to be on guard. One thing I can guarantee you, my brothers, is this, the Evil One, the Devil, is alive and very much at work in our world. Be on guard! But you need not fear him if you remain close to and rooted in our Lord. The only power the Evil One, the Devil, has over you is the power you give him, so be on guard! Remember the words spoken by Christ in today’s Gospel: “I came so that they [meaning us His followers] might have life and have it more abundantly.”
For Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., his path here on campus has come full circle. In 2011, he was named 3rd chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools and 11th rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. “It was very overwhelming to be chosen for the institution of which I was once a student, and at my farewell Mass, I noted how thankful I am for those things that we were able to do together here,” he added. “I give praise to God.”

Throughout his six-year tenure, his legacy has followed that of his alma mater – *To live out the mission of Orchard Lake Schools, service to God, Church or country, and their fellow human being.*

**Tenure highlights:**

- 2011 – Named Chancellor-Rector, Orchard Lake Schools (May 18)
- 2012 – Installation as Chancellor-Rector (February 19)
- 2013 – 50th Anniversary of Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake (March 3)
- 2016 – Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron named the Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake the official archdiocesan shrine to St. John Paul II.
- 2016 – Celebration of 1,050th Anniversary of Christianity in Poland (Orchard Lake Schools campus)
- 2017 – Polish American Priests’ Association Convention (co-chair; Orchard Lake Schools campus); recipient of the Father Leopold Moczygemba Award for outstanding service to Polonia

At his Installation on February 19, 2012, Msgr. said, “. . . I pledge that I will continue to make the vision and dream of Father Dabrowski a reality.” And of the words of St. John Paul II, “If the Orchard Lake Schools did not exist, it would be necessary to create them,” Msgr. Machalski pledged to “. . . do all in my power to make sure it flourishes for years to come and for the next generation.”

When asked what he would like to bestow upon the students, faculty, staff and Orchard Lake Schools faith community, Msgr. shared the following message. “In the years leading up to my ordination and my 32 years of priesthood, I believe everything is in God’s hands. All works out for the best when you trust in the Lord each and every day.”

He left this year’s Prep graduates with the following words of wisdom. “Today, for the Class of 2017, it is your Graduation Day – a day to celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings that He has bestowed on each of you in your time as students at St. Mary’s Preparatory. But this, my young brothers, is not the end but just the beginning.”

Upon his departure from his second home, Msgr. Machalski will embark on a short sabbatical before beginning a new chapter in parish ministry for the Diocese of Brooklyn. We give thanks for his service, his brotherhood and his fellowship, knowing this is not the end of his circle, for a circle has no end.
OLSM Class of 2017

Quick Facts

2 Students Earned Their Eagle Scout Rank

Over $9,000,000 in Scholarships Awarded

1 Student Earned an SAT Score of 1490

10 Student Athletes Committed to College Sports Teams on National Signing Day

Accepted at 110 Colleges/Universities

One U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award

Staff Landmark Years of Service

5 Years:
Mr. Carroll, Mr. Klein, Mrs. Laesser, Deacon Talbot, Mrs. Wilder

10 Years:
Ms. Kosco, Mr. Lengel

15 Years:
Ms. Howard, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Lynn

25 Years:
Mr. Clouse, Mr. Karschnia

30 Years:
Mr. Porritt
Today we, the members of the faculty and administration, entrust to you the mission of carrying on the work of Jesus which is the work of Orchard Lake St. Mary’s. The work of Jesus and the work of St. Mary’s are inseparable. Everything we taught you in the classroom, on the playing field or on the lake, in the meetings of the various organizations that are a part of our school, in formal settings and in those moments of fun and less formality, all we did and all we said was to prepare you for this moment. Today we send you out to proclaim by what you say and, more importantly, by what you do, the truth of the message of Jesus Christ. With the humility of Mary, the Patroness of our beloved school, you should always be ready “to do whatever He tells you.” Also, remember the motto of our school: “Intium sapientiae timor Domini: The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord.” The fear you and I have before the Lord is not that we are afraid of Him but rather a fear that, because of our human weakness and sinfulness, we can turn away from Him and lose Him. Always, my brothers, fear losing the Lord and never take His place in your lives for granted.

You have been the recipients of a treasure which is beyond price – you have received not only a good, solid, Catholic, Christian education – you have received an Orchard Lake St. Mary’s education. I am not saying that just because I am the Chancellor of this place. The students know who I am and what my history is but for those of you who do not, I will share a bit with you now. Forty-one years ago come May 31st, I sat where these young men now sit. Forty-one years ago, I graduated from Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Prep. The quality of the education this institution provides as well as its preparation of young men for life and all its blessings and challenges has not waivered, not even one iota, since the school’s founding. Like those who have graduated before them, they are well prepared to take up and fulfill the mission and challenge of Jesus and to make our Church, our country, our society, our world a better place.

As an administrator and an alumnus, myself, I am proud that these young men will take with them, wherever they find themselves in life, the ideals and principles of Orchard Lake St. Mary’s.

Parents, I know that every faculty member, administrator and staff member feels the same because if they did not, they would not be here. They love your boys and they love Orchard Lake St. Mary’s. They are owed a debt of immense gratitude for all they do and sacrifice to turn your boy into a young Catholic gentleman, a young Christian gentleman, a young gentleman of faith no matter what his particular religious persuasion. They certainly know that I am indebted to them and that they have my profound admiration and respect. Members of the faculty, administration and staff, I have been honored to be your colleague because without you, the mission of St. Mary’s, the mission of Jesus would not continue. I salute you all! Thank you!

This is my last graduation as Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools. I will be returning to my Diocese, the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, after six years of service here at Orchard Lake. I have loved and do love all the previous graduates and the underclassmen who are still part of St. Mary’s Prep. However, for some reason this Class of 2017 and I really clicked! They are the class that I have grown the closest to in my time here. I am so proud of them! Parents and guardians – you are the biological or legal parents of these young men but I have been their spiritual father here at St. Mary’s. I have been privileged to share in their joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, broken hearts and shattered dreams as well as their accomplishments and watching them grow from boys into men. (Parents: I know more about your sons than you do and, I venture to say, it is better off that you don’t know what I do! Trust me!)

Brothers, you have now, and always will have, a very special place in my heart. You have made me a better person and a better priest. Thank You!

Continued on next page
My young brothers: Allow me to give you a few words of advice that I hope you will remember throughout your lives:

- If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.
- If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
- If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.
- If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.
- If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.
- If you plant hard work, you will reap success.
- If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

So, my young brothers, be careful what you plant now: It will determine what you reap later.

And now I end with what has been labeled my hallmark graduation homily conclusion:

In the classic movie, The Bells of St. Mary's, Bing Crosby, who plays Fr. O’Malley, tells Ingrid Bergman, who plays Sister Mary Benedict, as she leaves for her new assignment after being transferred that, if she ever needs him all she has to do is dial “O” for “O’Malley.” (Yes, that was back in the day when you had a dial on the phone!)

Well, I want the boys to know that whenever they need me, all they have to do is call me on their cell or get me on Skype (sorry, I can’t afford an Apple watch!). If they send me a text message or an email — or use whatever new forms of communication will yet make their debut — all they need to do is type “M” for Machalski and I will know that they need my help. I will be there for them. I rejoice with these young men. I will miss these young men! I love them and want only the best for them. They are and always will be your boys, our boys, my boys that grew into being Men of St. Mary’s!

By the way, as I return to Brooklyn, which is the next best thing to paradise here on earth, please stop by and say hello if you are ever nearby. It will be great to see you and also to take you out and let you see what real pizza tastes like!

---

Polish Seminary Graduates Ready to Serve

Three young Polish men from SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary graduated on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Two will be returning to the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. Reverend Mr. Przemyslaw Bak graduated with two degrees — a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Theology. Reverend Mr. Kamil Bober earned a Master of Divinity. The third, Reverend Mr. Krzysztof Piotrowski, also graduated with a Master of Divinity, and returns to the Diocese of Venice, Florida.

Two Deacons, who completed their studies at SSCMS in May of 2016, were recently ordained — Reverend Mr. Boguslaw Rebacz for the Diocese of Denver, Colorado, and Reverend Mr. Rafal Pyrchla for the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois.

“I am so proud of all of them and look forward to calling them ‘my brother priests’ this month,” said Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., Chancellor-Rector, Orchard Lake Schools. “The Church in the United States will have these five new priests and we, here at Orchard Lake, have helped make this important contribution to the Church.”

Established in 1885 in Detroit and today on the shores of Orchard Lake, SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary educates Catholic priests for diocese throughout the United States beginning with its first two ordinations in 1890. Originally chartered to train priests primarily to minister to Polish immigrants, today’s graduates serve at diocese with diverse ethnicity. Although most seminarians are of Polish ancestry, many are not.
The Polish Mission (TPM), in partnership with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland, hosted a world-renown team of experts on Thursday, May 25 for a program called the Conservation Workshop. Dr. Marek Kolyszko, Dariusz Sobocz, and Adam Korcz, special guests from Torun and Grebocin in Poland, are experts in the fields of archeology and conservation who are here to help preserve treasured collections at Orchard Lake and more.

Those who attended the workshop witnessed Dariusz Sobocz work on pieces from our Galeria collection, learned conservation methods, and had the opportunity to ask Sobocz questions. Dr. Marek Kolyszko, a renowned archaeologist in Poland, has excavated historic sites from the battlefields of Scotland to the deserts of Libya. In the hands-on workshop, he showed guests how to make souvenir castings of objects from our collection. The plaster/silicone casting method is the same one used in restoring Poland’s historic castle facades and other masonry. Adam Korcz demonstrated the art of paper making, while showing his work on antique Royal Polish letters from the Polish Mission collection.

For information on upcoming events, visit www.polishmission.com

Upcoming Event Highlights

June

1-18
Library Closed

6-8
Polish Priests Retreat

9
Founder’s Day

10
Alumni Day

18
Library Summer Hours Begin
10 AM - 4 PM; June 19 - Aug. 18

19-23 & 26-30
Benedicta Leadership Institute/Women of Grace Courses

21
First Day of Summer

JUNE 2017 MASS SCHEDULE

JUNE 4TH:
+ 9 AM  FR. LIS-POLISH-SEMINARY CHAPEL
+ 11 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-SHRINE CHAPEL OLOL
+ 1 PM  FR. LIS-SHRINE CHAPEL OLOL

JUNE 11TH:
+ 9 AM  FR. SEWERYN-POLISH-SEMINARY CHAPEL
+ 11 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-SHRINE CHAPEL OLOL

JUNE 18TH:
+ 9 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-POLISH-SEMINARY CHAPEL
+ 11 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-SHRINE CHAPEL OLOL

JUNE 25TH:
+ 9 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-POLISH-SEMINARY CHAPEL
+ 11 AM  MSGR. MACHALSKI-SHRINE CHAPEL OLOL